

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 15, 2003, and the newly applied reference have been carefully studied. The claims in the application remain as method claims 6-8 only. Again, these claims define novel and unobvious subject matter warranting their allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance.

Claim 7 has been rejected under the second paragraph of §112. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The terms objected to in the rejection are "preventing" and "severe hepatitis". These terms have been deleted from the claims without prejudice to Applicants' rights to pursue the same or similar subject matter in a continuing application without any penalty whatsoever, Applicants relying on their rights, including those provided by §120 and §119, if Applicants choose to do so. By such deletion, the rejection is obviated.

For the record, however, Applicants believe that those skilled in the art know what "severe hepatitis" is, and therefore such terminology is not indefinite. As regards "preventing", such term is used in the sense of "inhibiting", although certainly in some cases administration according to the present invention would totally prevent the disease entity in question.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 6-8 have been rejected as obvious under §103 from Koyama in view of newly cited and applied Rousset. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' claims no longer include IL-10 or B cell growth factor due to the amendment presented above in main claim 6, support for which can be found at page 23, line 10, through page 24, line 17. The prior art does not suggest the claimed subject matter, and there is no reasonable expectation of applicant's invention from a consideration of the prior art.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Favorable consideration and early formal allowance are respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By



Sheridan Neimark
Registration No. 20,520

SN:ma
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
G:\BN\A\Aoyb\Ohnogi1\PTO\Amend 15Apr03.doc